

First Sunday in Lent

February 22, 2026 + 9:30 am



LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER
2417 Drexel Avenue - Racine, Wisconsin 53403
(262) 634-7998

<https://www.facebook.com/LCRRacine>



Today's gospel tells of Jesus' temptation in the desert. His forty-day fast becomes the basis of our Lenten pilgrimage. In the early church Lent was a time of intense preparation for those to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. This catechetical focus on the meaning of faith is at the heart of our Lenten journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. Hungry for God's mercy, we receive the bread of life to nourish us for the days ahead.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

We gather today on the ancestral lands of the Potawatomi, Ho-Chunk, Myaamia, Ojéhéthi Šakówi, Kickapoo, and Peoria peoples. We honor and acknowledge the traditional stewards of this land, recognizing their enduring connection to this region. As we come together in worship, let us commit ourselves to respecting their history and culture, and work toward healing and justice for Indigenous communities. May we be mindful of our role in creating a more equitable future for all.

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For failing to recognize your coming reign,

and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition,

and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound.

Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

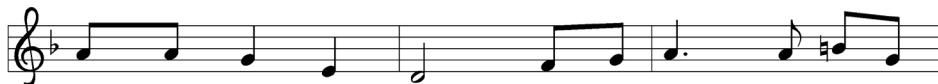
Amen.

Gathering Song

"Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery" ELW 334, vv. 1-3, Lent 1



1 Tree of Life and awe - some mys - t'ry, in your
2 We re - mem - ber truth once spo - ken, love passed
3 Christ, you lead and we shall fol - low, stum - bling



death we are re - born; though you die in all of
on through act and word; ev - 'ry per - son lost and
though our steps may be; one with you in joy and



his - t'ry, still you rise with ev - 'ry morn, still you
bro - ken wears the bod - y of our Lord, wears the
sor - row, we the riv - er, you the sea, we the



rise with ev - 'ry morn.
bod - y of our Lord.
riv - er, you the sea.

Lent 1

From the dawning of creation
you have loved us as your own;
stay with us through all temptation,
make us turn to you alone.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Music: Marty Haugen
Text and music © 1984 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.
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Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

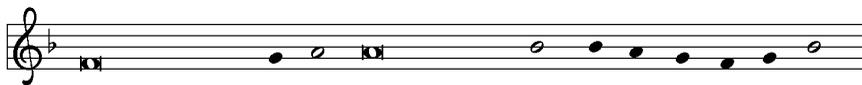
Kyrie



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



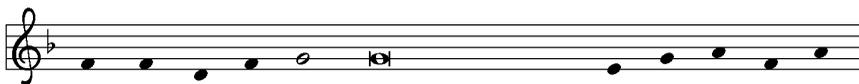
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of



God, and for the uni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



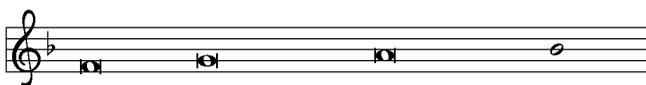
For this ho - ly house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and



praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gracious Lord.



A - men.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Lord God,

our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-17

Human beings were formed with great care, to be in relationship with the creator, creation, and one another. The serpent's promise to the first couple that their eyes would be opened led, ironically, to the discovery only that they were naked.

The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

^{3:1} Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" ² The woman

said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden,³ but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’”⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die,⁵ for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate.⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

*At the conclusion of the reading, the Assembly responds: **Thanks be to God.***

Psalm 32

Mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD. (Ps. 32:10)

¹ Happy are they whose transgressions | are forgiven,
and whose sin is | put away!

² **Happy are they to whom the LORD im- | putes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there | is no guile!**

³ While I held my tongue, my bones with- | ered away,
because of my groaning | all day long.

⁴ **For your hand was heavy upon me | day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the | heat of summer.**

⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not con- | ceal my guilt.
I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD.” Then you forgave me the
guilt | of my sin.

⁶ **Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in | time of
trouble; when the great waters overflow, they | shall not reach them.**

⁷ You are my hiding-place; you preserve | me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts | of deliverance.

⁸ **“I will instruct you and teach you in the way that | you should go;
I will guide you | with my eye.**

⁹ Do not be like horse or mule, which have no | understanding;
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will | not stay near you.”

¹⁰ **Great are the tribulations | of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust | in the LORD.**

¹¹ Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice | in the LORD;
shout for joy, all who are | true of heart.

Second Reading

Romans 5:12-19

Through Adam's disobedience, humanity came under bondage to sin and death, from which we cannot free ourselves. In Christ's obedient death, God graciously showers on us the free gift of liberation and life.

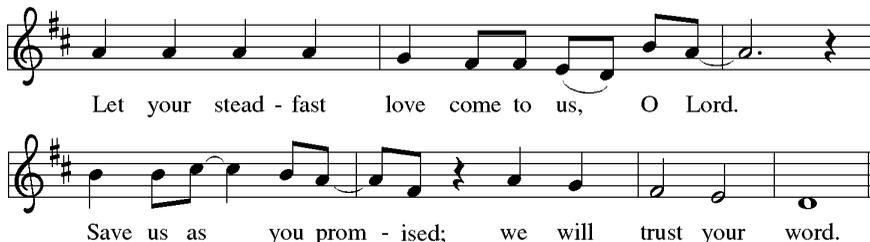
Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned ¹³ for sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. ¹⁴ Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin in the likeness of Adam, who is a pattern of the one who was to come.

¹⁵ But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. ¹⁶ And the gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the gift following many trespasses brings justification. ¹⁷ If, because of the one man's trespass, death reigned through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

¹⁸ Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. ¹⁹ For just as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so through the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

*At the conclusion of the reading, the Assembly responds: **Thanks be to God***

Gospel Acclamation



Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.

Save us as you promised; we will trust your word.

Gospel Announcement

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel

Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus experiences anew the temptations that Israel faced in the wilderness. As the Son of God, he endures the testing of the evil one.

Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. ² He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. ³ The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴ But he answered, "It is written,

'One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.' "

⁷ Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' "

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, ⁹ and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.' "

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

"When We Are Tested" ACS #922



1 When we are test - ed and wres - tle a - lone,
 2 When in the des - ert we cry for re - lief,
 3 When we are tempt - ed to bar - ter our souls,
 4 When we have strug - gled and searched through the night,



fam - ished for bread when the world of - fers stone,
 plead - ing for paths marked by cer - tain be - lief,
 trad - ing the truth for the pow'r to con - trol,
 sort - ing and sift - ing the wrong from the right,



nour - ish us, God, by your word and your way,
 lift us to love you be - yond sign and test,
 teach us to wor - ship and praise on - ly you,
 Sav - ior, sur - round us with cir - cles of care,



food that sus - tains us by night and by day.
 trust - ing your pres - ence, our on - ly true rest.
 seek - ing your will in the work that we do.
 an - gels of heal - ing, of hope, and of prayer.

Apostles Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

The Assisting Minister leads the prayers of the people for the church, the world, and all people in need. Each petition ends with:

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great**

We remember our homebound members and all who have asked for our prayers: Erna Joswig, Joyce Owens, Dorothy Popadic, Pat Quale, Bonnie Ayers, John Falk, Sue Heckel, Donna Johnson, Linda Bagley, Carmen Falk, Tom Johnson, Mario Miranda, Lynda, Lynn Hooper, Randy Weit, Aimee and Mark Hooper, Missy Hoffman, Mary Scruggs, Linda Losito, Anne Maley, Judi and Larry Krebs, and Eloise and Larry Laugen, and the family of Delores Phillips.

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.



MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering



Your offering helps us carry on God's mission in our community! You may place your offering in the offering plate as it is passed, you may mail your offering to the church office, you can even text to give by texting the amount you wish to give to 262.592.5757, then follow the prompts. You may also scan the code to the right with your smartphone's camera to give on our website (www.racinelcredeemer.com). You can also sign up for automatic giving on our website as well!

Thank you for your generosity!

Offering Song



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me.
Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me
with your free Spir - it. Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God,
and re - new a right spir - it with - in me.

Music: *Liturgy of Joy*, James M. Capers, b. 1948
Music © 1993 Augsburg Fortress.

Offertory Prayer

Let us pray. God our provider,

you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...

... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow - er and might,
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The Presiding Minister continues, the Assembly responds when prompted:

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. ...

... Grace your table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

... burning with justice, peace, and love.

Come, Holy Spirit. ...

The prayer concludes: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

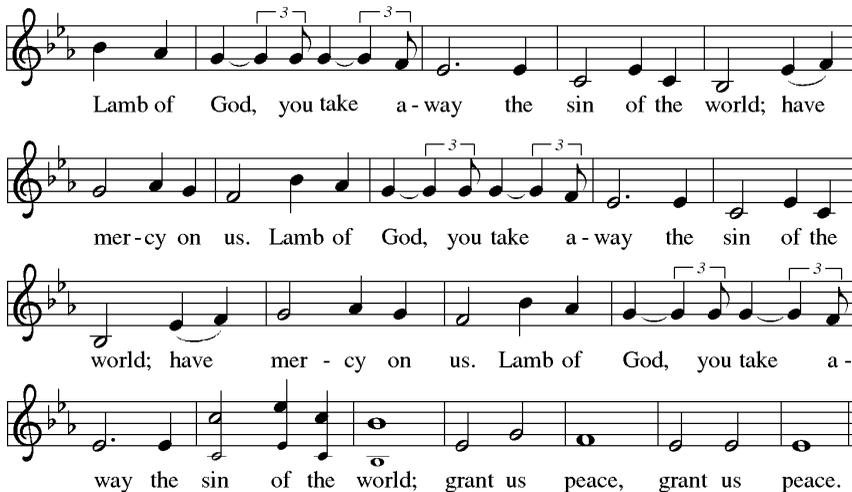
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

Distribution of Communion

If you are worshipping with us at home, you are invited to partake in Communion as well! All you need is bread of any kind and wine or juice of any kind. As you receive the bread: 'This is the Body of Christ given for you.' As you receive the wine or juice: 'This is the Blood of Christ shed for you.' If you are worshipping with more than one person, please serve one another as you able using the above words.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion Song

"Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word" ELW #517



1 Lord, keep us stead-fast in your word; curb those who
2 Lord Je-sus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are
3 O Com-fort-er of price-less worth, send peace and



by de- ceit or sword would wrest the king-dom from your Son
Lord of lords a-lone; de-fend your ho-ly church, that we
u-ni-ty on earth; sup-port us in our fi-nal strife



and bring to naught all he has done.
may sing your praise e-ter-nal-ly.
and lead us out of death to life.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: ERHALT UNS, HERR, J. Klug, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543

Table Blessing

Prayer After Communion

Let us pray. God of our salvation,

**we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls,
reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey.
Through the body and blood of your Son,
may we become Christ's body in the world,
bearing witness to your love for all creation,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

Blessing

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity:

God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us,

and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ✚ bless you now and always. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

"A Mighty Fortress is Our God" ELW #504



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -
 2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -
 3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - 'ning to de -
 4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who



to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and
 ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom
 your us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they
 fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with



wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe
 God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?
 can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;
 weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,



has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might
 The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,
 in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;
 goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,



he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.
 God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.
 God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.
 they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
 Music: EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Announcements

Dismissal

Go in peace. Remember the poor
Thanks be to God.

Serving Today

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Altar Flowers: | Matt James <i>In Thanksgiving for Family</i> |
| Assisting Minister: | Charles Julius |
| Reader: | Damian Cook |
| Usher: | Linda Bagley |
| Altar Guild: | Jeanne Schierstedt & Jane Wilson |
| Musician: | Paul Berge |
| Pastor: | The Rev. Matt James |

This Week @ Redeemer

Wednesday: Mid-Week Lent Meal and Presentation:
Soup Supper – 5pm; Presentation – 6pm @ Living
Faith Lutheran Church (2915 Wright Avenue)

Sunday: Sunday Worship – 9:30am

Celebrations this Week

Birthdays: Noah Mishleau (2/22); Dan Mercier (2/24); Sean
Gorall & Emilie Nelson (2/25)

Order Your Easter Flowers Today!

The Altar Guild is accepting orders for flowers to adorn our sanctuary at Easter. You may choose from Easter Lilies, Chrysanthemums, Hyacinths, Daffodils, Regal Geraniums or Tulips, all flowers are \$15 each.

Orders should be turned in by March 9th. Checks should be made payable to Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, or scan the code (→) to order online.

If you have any questions please contact Jane Wilson at 262-412-6227.



Texts for Next Sunday, March 1st, Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17

Cover Image: Kramskoi, Ivan Nikolaevich, 1837-1887. Christ in the Wilderness, from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. https://digital.library.vanderbilt.edu/act/image/ink_p17RC=54297 [retrieved February 19, 2026]. Original source: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Kramskoi_Christ_dans_je_d%C3%A9sert.jpg.

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